ANNUAL REPORT

UPON THE

PUBLIC HEALTH

AND

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION

OF THE

RURAL DISTRICT OF ABERGAVENNY

FOR THE

YEAR 1970.

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S. M. JAMES, B.Sc., M.B.,B.Ch.,D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health

and

Medical Officer of Health No.10 Area.

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ABERGAVENNY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

To : The Chairman and Members of the
Abergavenny Rural District Council.

A N N U A L R E P O R T

1970.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The estimated population of Abergavenny Rural District remains comparatively static with little overall fluctuation in either the death-rate or the birth-rate. Nevertheless, the demand for more new houses goes on. People not only expect a higher standard of living but families are no longer the tight-knit units they used to be. Nowadays, young people are not content to live with their parents and grandparents. The late sixties saw the return fashion of younger marriages with the newly-weds eager to set up homes of their own. At the same time many of the old folk have found life increasingly difficult in the houses that have now become too large and laborious with too few amenities and inadequate help.

Not so long ago houses were built with the minimum regard to physical environment only. Being a truly rural area, most of the houses built some 50 years ago were small, single cottages. These may have had roses round the door but usually had a 'privy' in the garden. Natural lighting and ventilation were poor so that the ever open door, regardless of weather conditions, may have spelt hospitality but was also very necessary. They were strictly utilitarian in character, possessing few of the 'mod cons'. Gradually each village was provided with its main water supply so that indoor hot and cold water became available and sometimes even a bath. The indoor toilet with its flushing cistern replaced the little house at the back. Electricity gained supremacy over the oil-lamp. Cooking facilities remained rather primitive for some years to come - the old kitchen range occupying pride of place and faithfully 'black japanned' by the more diligent housewife. Such accommodation provided a measure of comfort for the worker and his family without exceeding his meagre income limits. Frequently, they were occupied by several generations of the family.

Some time later the two or three bedroom non-parlour type of house came into vogue and slowly the negative approach to housing gave way to a more positive outlook. Then there came a vigorous drive against overcrowding. As a result, one and two room dwellers became fewer in number.

The changing concepts of the environment now require the building of houses according to family needs - physical, emotional and social. The goal should be the provision of a self-contained dwelling of flexible design for each family. Ideally, the house should be constructed so as to allow parents to live harmoniously together and to bring up children under healthy and comfortable conditions. Living space within the house must not only be adequate but it must be well insulated and the space-heating efficient Kitchen designs have been revolutionarised with the provision of labour-saving devices while retaining sufficient room for working convenience.

Recent planning tends to provide a mixture of dwellings, family houses arranged in small terraces or individually, bungalows for the elderly as well as a small number of flats. All should be within easy distance of the Post Office, the pub, the village hall etc. Although in the country adequate space for recreation must be available to all. The siting of the school is now not so important since special transport is provided beyond certain limits but it is questionable whether most of these village schools should be abolished. All in all, Abergavenny Rural District Council has been, and is, spending considerable energy in an attempt to provide more and more homes conducive both to the health and happiness of its inhabitants.

Despite the efforts made there is mounting evidence of a sick society in certain sections of the community. Acts of hooliganism and vandalism occur too frequently within any class of society tending to flourish whenever a crowd is gathered together.

In the main, infectious diseases are now under control but we see an upward trend in the incidence of sexually transmitted diseases through promiscuity. This form of behaviour has already spread to the teenage group and it seems that more infections of this type are occurring, even at school. Nationally and locally the illegitimate birth-rate has increased and there is a significant rise in the number of abortions. Fatal accidents and suicides are comparatively rare in the district. Nevertheless, one is mindful of the medical and social hazards associated with these conditions. Continued research into the causes and early treatment, where necessary, will considerably help their prevention.

Yours faithfully,

S. M. JAMES, B.Sc.,M.B.,B.Ch.,D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health.

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VITAL STATISTICS

Area in Acres	62,685
Population	10,300
Number of Inhabited Houses (According to Rate Book 31/12/70)	3,317
Rateable Value	£215,981
1d. Rate	£850

1970.	M	F	Total
Live Births :			
Legitimate	66	67	133
Illegitimate	6	7	13
	72	74	146

Live Birth Rate :	Rural District	County	E. & W.
Per 1,000 population	14.2	15.7	16.0
Comparability Factor 1.2			
Adjusted Live Birth Rate 14.2 x 1.2=17.0		16.01	16.0

Still Births :	M	F	Total
Legitimate	4	2	6
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Still Birth Rate :	Rural District	County	E. & W.
Per 1,000 Live and Still Births	39	15.4	13.0

DEATHS	M	F	Total
All causes	92	100	192

	Rural District	County	E. & W.
Death Rate per 1,000 population	18.6	11.6	11.7
Comparability Factor 0.47			
Adjusted Death Rate 18.6 x 0.47 =	8.7	12.99	11.7

	M	F	Total
Death from Cancer (all forms)	12	10	22
Deaths from lung cancer	2	-	2
Deaths due to Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion			Nil

Maternal Death Rate (Rate per 1,000 Live Births)	Rural District	County
	0	0.18

	M	F	Total
Infant Mortality	-	-	-
Infant Mortality Rate (Rate per 1,000 total Live Births)	Rural District -	County 21.12	E. & W. 18.0
Neo-Natal Mortality Rate--first 4 weeks	-	14.26	12.0
Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate (Under 1 week)	-	12.63	11.0
Perinatal Mortality (Still births and Infant deaths under 1 week) per 1,000 total live and still births	39.0	27.9	23.0

Perinatal Mortality in Abergavenny Rural District (1959-1970).

Year	Number of First Week Deaths	Number of Still Births	Perinatal Mortality Rate
1970	-	6	39.0
1969	1	-	6
1968	-	1	7
1967	2	1	21.7
1966	3	4	48.95
1965	2	7	51.7
1964	2	2	28
1963	-	-	-
1962	4	1	42.55
1961	2	1	28.99
1960	1	7	56.7
1959	2	2	32.0

PERINATAL MORTALITY (1959 - 1970).

Abergavenny Borough, Abergavenny Rural District and Monmouthshire County

Year	Abergavenny Borough	Abergavenny Rural District	Monmouthshire
1970	25.0	39.0	27.90
1969	63.0	6	27.33
1968	53.6	7	28.99
1967	37.5	21.7	29.09
1966	12.1	48.95	33.87
1965	31.25	51.7	35.98
1964	57.8	28.6	37.25
1963	30.6	-	35.82
1962	71.4	42.55	38.85
1961	46.1	28.99	39.9
1960	51.3	56.7	42.0
1959	23.9	32.0	47.7

CAUSES OF DEATH, 1970. ABERGAVENNY RURAL DISTRICT.

CAUSE	SEX Male	SEX Female
Syphilis and its Sequelae	-	-
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	-	1
Malignant Neoplasm Oesophagus	-	-
Malignant Neoplasm - Stomach	3	-
Malignant Neoplasm - Intestine	2	1
Malignant Neoplasm - Lung, Bronchus	2	1
Malignant Neoplasm - Breast	-	5
Malignant Neoplasm - Prostate	1	-
Malignant Neoplasm - Uterus	-	1
Leukaemia	-	-
Other Malignant Neoplasms etc.	2	2
Benign and Unspecified Neoplasms	1	-
Diabetes Mellitus	1	1
Other Endocrine etc. Diseases	-	-
Mental Disorders	2	3
Meningitis	1	1
Other Diseases of Nervous System Etc.	-	1
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Diseases	3	1
Hypertensive Disease	3	1
Ischaemic Heart Disease	23	13
Other forms of Heart Disease	6	12
Cerebro-vascular Disease	12	18
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	3	6
Influenza	1	1
Pneumonia	11	18
Bronchitis and Emphysene	5	1
Asthma	-	-
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	-	-
Peptic Ulcer	-	-
Cirrhosis of Liver	1	1
Other Diseases of Digestive System	2	-
Nephritis and Nephrosis	-	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	-
Other Diseases Genito-Urinary System	1	-
Congenital Anomalies	-	-
Other complications of Pregnancy	-	1
Symptoms and ill-defined Conditions	1	4
Motor Vehicle Accidents	-	-
All other Accidents	4	5
All other External Causes	-	-
TOTAL ALL CAUSES	92	100

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES (1970).

(Classified according to sex and age)

Disease	Sex	0-4	5-9	10-19	20-29	30-39	40 plus	Total
Whooping Cough	M	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
	F	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Measles	M	13	5	1	0	0	0	19
	F	7	9	1	0	0	0	17
Scarlet Fever	M	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	F	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	M	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	F	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	M	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	F	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Poliomyelitis	M	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	F	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dysentry	M	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	F	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Food Poisoning	M	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	F	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Encephalitis	M	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	F	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pneumonia	M	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	F	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Erysipelas	M	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	F	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Abortus Fever	M	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	F	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

TUBERCULOSIS

Notified	Pulmonary	M 5	F 3	Non Pulmonary	M 0	F 0
Deaths	Pulmonary	M 0	F 0	Non Pulmonary	M 0	F 0

ABERGAVENNY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report of the Public Health Inspector.

To : The Chairman & Members of the Abergavenny R.D.C.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to submit my Annual Report on the work carried out by this department during the year ended 31st December, 1970.

Satisfactory progress was made during the year in all the various duties of the department, detailed reports of which are contained under the various headings included in this report, but more especially in connection with unfit and sub-standard housing.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the Chairman and Members of the Council for their confidence and support and also the Clerk and other colleagues for their valuable help and assistance.

I am,

Yours Respectfully,

T. GREGORY.

Public Health Inspector.

I N D E X

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9. Agricultural Workers (Safety, Health & Welfare Provisions) Act, 1956.

9. Animal Boarding Establishments, 1963.

9. Caravan Sites.

9. Civic Amenities Act, 1967.

10. Factories Act, 1961.

12. Food & Drugs Act, 1955 :-

12. Unsound Food.

12. Food Hygiene.

13. Poultry Inspection.

13. Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations.

13. Milk & Dairies (General) Regulations.

14. Housing :-

14. Unfit Premises.

16. Improvement Grants.

17. Office, Shops & Railway Premises Act, 1963.

17. Public Health Act, 1936.

17. Nuisances.

17. Rodent Control and Disinfestation.

18. Refuse Collection and Disposal.

20. Sewage and Sewage Disposal.

23. Slaughter Houses.

23. Water Supplies.

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AGRICULTURAL WORKERS (SAFETY, HEALTH & WELFARE PROVISIONS) ACT, 1956.

No special action was taken in connection with this Act this year but where farms were visited for other reasons the sanitary accommodation was inspected and approved. No formal action was found necessary.

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT, 1963.

A Licence, containing conditions, were issued in respect of one premises and this was found generally to be satisfactory. 20 dogs are catered for at this establishment. The other premises previously licenced have closed due to the owners leaving the district.

CARAVAN SITES.

25 Site Licences were issued in conjunction with temporary planning consents in respect of residential sites containing one caravan. Most of these temporary consents have been renewed yearly for quite a few years and moves have been made over the last two years to have these planning consents made permanent or withdrawn, but little improvement seems to have been made in this direction.

One site holds a permanent licence for 4 residential caravans and another for one caravan only.

Four sites are permanently licensed for six months of the year for holiday caravans, the sites containing 4, 7, 8 and 25 caravans respectively.

Conditions generally on the sites are good although complaints are received from time to time from both residents and the general public and these are generally dealt with by reference to the licence conditions.

CIVIC AMENTITIES ACT, 1967.

Abandoned Motor Vehicles.

37 abandoned motor vehicles and two caravans were cleared from sites this year. A great deal of this problem continues to arise from cars which have been stripped down for spares before being abandoned. Only six of the total of 39 cases were dealt with by formal action.

Bulky Domestic Refuse & Abandoned Rubbish.

Despite this Council's free service for the collection and disposal of accumulations of rubbish and bulky items dumping in the countryside still continues. There were no cases of the culprits being traced and proceeded against by this Council although I understand that the Brecon Beacons National Parks Planning Committee were successful on at least two occasions.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961.

A total of 16 premises were registered as factories during the year, plus 7 building sites and works of engineering construction which ranked as factories. In all cases these were factories in which only Section 7 of the Act (the provision of sanitary conveniences) is enforced by the Local Authority.

Action Taken.

No written notices were served in respect of defective or insufficient sanitary conveniences.

Outworkers.

3 Persons were notified as outworkers, these being engaged in knitted woollens and dressmaking.

PRESCRIBED PARTICULARS ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1961.

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of Inspections (3)	Number of Written Notices (4)	Number of Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	16	2	Nil	Nil
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises).	11	6	Nil	Nil
Total :	27	8	Nil	Nil

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found :-

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Overcrowding (S.2)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(b) Unsuitable or defective	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(c) Not separate for sexes	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

PART VIII OF THE ACT

Outwork

(Sections 133 and 134)

Nature of Work	Section 133			Section 134		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Section 133 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Wearing apparel)Making,)etc.	3	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
)Cleaning	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
)and)Washing	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955.

Unsound Food

No unfit food was condemned during the year. A small quantity of unsound food (tinned meat and tinned fruit) was voluntarily surrendered.

Food Hygiene.

Visits of Inspection :

	No. of Premises	No. of Visits	No. of warnings verbal and written	No. of Infringements
Grocers	22	7	3	12
Other Food Premises	3	2	2	8
Ice-Cream Premises	27	10	-	-
Cafes	2	4	2	5
Street Vendors	10	3	3	13
Licensed Clubs	3	1	-	-
Licensed Premises	31	13	10	12
	98	40	20	50

Food Hygiene

Visits of Inspection (Continued) :

	Premises fitted to comply with Reg. 16 (Wash-hand basins, etc.)	Premises to which Reg. 19 applies (Sinks, etc.)	Premises fitted to comply with Reg. 19 (Sinks, etc.)
Grocers	22	22	22
Ice-Cream Premises	27	-	-
Cafes	2	2	2
Licensed Clubs	3	3	3
Licensed Premises	26	31	31
Other Food Premises	3	3	3

In addition to the above visits 12 food stalls were inspected at the Abergavenny & Border Counties Show. Conditions generally were satisfactory.

As street traders do not have to be registered it is an extremely difficult task to keep track of all those that do from time to time operate within the district and one can only rely upon meeting them in one's travels. Most of these traders are not resident within the district.

Poultry Inspection. There are two small poultry and one rabbit processing premises within the district. Hygiene, poultry inspection, and waste disposal is well controlled.

Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations 1947 and 1952.

There are no premises registered in the area for the manufacture of ice-cream. The 27 registered premises sell pre-packed ice-cream. Three street traders are known to operate within the district. Two of these sell loose ice-cream, which is manufactured outside the district, and one sells soft ice-cream frozen on the vehicle. No samples were submitted for bacteriological or chemical analysis.

The Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959.

There are 12 producer/distributors in the area and these dairies are controlled by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food. A further 5 retailers are licensed by the County Council.

No milk samples were submitted for bacteriological or chemical analysis during the year.

HOUSING

I. Inspection of Dwelling Houses.

(1)	(a) Total number of houses inspected for housing defects (Public Health Act and Housing Act)	...	165
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	218
(2)	Number of dwellings found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	3

II. Action under the Statutory Powers

Proceedings taken under Sections 9 to 16, Housing Act, 1957

(a)	Number of houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	1
(b)	Number of unfit houses made fit as a result of informal action	...	21
(c)	Number of Closing Orders made	...	Nil
(d)	Number of Demolition Orders made	...	Nil
(e)	Number of unfit houses demolished	...	Nil
(f)	Number of unfit houses on which undertakings were accepted	...	2
(g)	Number of unfit houses subject to change of use	...	Nil
(h)	Number of unfit houses made fit as a result of formal action	...	5

I reported last year on the results of the housing survey which covered all those properties of low or medium rateable value and which revealed the bulk of the unfit houses in the district. It can, therefore, be expected that, in future, the number of houses found to be unfit will be very small and will involve the larger type of house excluded from the survey and those houses already surveyed and graded "borderline". The three unfit houses recorded this year come from this latter category.

It was decided, as an experiment, to take no formal action in connection with unfit houses during 1970, but to include all such houses in the House Improvement Campaign which commenced in October, 1969. The results of this experiment were not encouraging. In only 15 cases were satisfactory improvement schemes submitted. In another 10 cases schemes were being prepared at the end of the year. There is no doubt that the efforts put into the house improvement scheme during 1970 will have some, and possibly better, results in 1971. Nevertheless, it is proposed to recommence with formal action in the coming year, in appropriate cases, as it remains this Council's firm intention to deal with all the unfit houses by March, 1973.

The house improvement scheme included all those houses which were considered to be fit but which were, nevertheless, substandard by reason of lack of basic amenities, disrepair or other defects. It is hoped that the property improvements gained in this way as the result of comprehensive overhaul and improvement will be superior to that gained by any other action and will thus have long term beneficial results. This is afterall only what present day improvement grants are aimed at achieving. The effects of the ramifications of the housing survey and the highlighting of the numbers and locations of the unfit and sub-standard houses on Council policy in terms of new Council house development, temporary housing, the procedure for dealing with unfit houses in Committee, and housing advances for purchase and improvement were not as considerable as had been expected and were quietlyabsorbed during the year with considerable progress being made in most directions.

In connection with Council house development, no Council houses have been built for the last three years and, in certain areas, numbers of unfit houses will have to be left in abeyance pending some new development in those areas. It is hoped that a start will be made on two or three small sites in the coming year. In the meantime families are being rehoused wherever possible when suitable housing becomes available. Apart from the small numbers mentioned above there is no great problem of rehousing at the present time.

Improvement Grants

(1) Standard Grants :

(a) Number of applications received during the year	...	12
(b) Number of applications approved during the year	...	12
(c) Number of applications withdrawn during the year	...	Nil
(d) Expenditure ranking for grants approved during the year	...	£3,005.00
(e) Number of cases in which work was completed	...	13
(f) Expenditure paid out on work completed during the year	...	£3,432.87

(2) Discretionary Grants :

(a) Number of applications received during the year	...	37
(b) Number of applications approved during the year	...	37
(c) Number of applications withdrawn during the year	...	Nil
(d) Expenditure ranking for grants approved during the year	...	£32,907.00
(e) Number of cases where work was completed during the year	...	10
(f) Expenditure paid out on work completed during the year	...	£ 5,977.00

The combined effect of the increased grants ensuing from the Housing Act, 1969 and this Council's House Improvement Campaign which was timed to coincide with the commencement of the new Act is shown in the 100% increase in grant applications this year. The numbers of Standard grants went down, but Discretionary grants went up by over 200%. A most interesting figure is the total amount of grant aid approved. All this is, of course, in line with Council policy to go for full comprehensive repair and improvement which in most cases is the only way to deal with country property.

Encouraging as these figures are they are not as high as had been hoped for and so the campaign, in a more selective form, will be carried on.

The rather dramatic increase in costs over the last two years is disturbing and makes one consider whether builders are not taking advantage of the increased grants for their own benefit. There is no doubt, however, that all building costs are accelerating upwards at an alarming rate. This does not seem to be a factor in slowing down the rate of applications. The main inhibiting factor seems to be the difficulties associated with the local building trade and applicants not being able to get the work done without a long wait and a consequent increase in costs.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963.

Class of Premises	Number of Premises		
	Registered during year	Total Registered at end of year	Receiving a general Inspection during the year
Offices	-	2	1
Retail Shops	-	5	4
Wholesale Shops and Warehouses	-	-	-
Catering Establishments open to the Public and Canteens	-	10	6
Totals :	-	17	11

Total Number of Visits to Registered Premises : 11

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936.

Most of the activities of this department covered by the Public Health Act, 1936, have sufficient content to be dealt with in detail under their separate headings.

Nuisances.

Very few complaints were received during the year involving Statutory Nuisances, and these were settled without resorting to formal action.

RODENT CONTROL AND OTHER DISINFESTATION

This work, in respect of Council property and dwelling houses, is carried out by a Private Contractor under contract but, as usual, in order to give a more complete picture of rodent control work in the district, I have included the contractor's work in connection with business and agricultural premises.

There was no evidence this year of any warferin resistant rats.

Rat activity in sewers remains at a very low level.

PROPERTIES OTHER THAN SEWERS

		TYPE OF PROPERTY	
		NON-AGRICULTURAL	AGRICULTURAL
1.	a. * Total Number of properties in district	3,710	
	b. Agricultural properties		538
2.	a. Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification	490	50
	b. Number infested by (i) Rats	321	103
	(ii) Mice	17	9
3.	a. Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	144	72
	b. Number infested by (i) Rats	182	53
	(ii) Mice	-	12
4.	Total No. of Treatments carried out including re-treatments	520	177

* This figure includes all agricultural properties.

The houses in the district remain substantially free from insect infestation although our contractor is called upon to deal occasionally with complaints of cluster flies, wasps, bees and bats.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

Most of the rural district is covered by the Council's collection scheme, which is under the control of the Public Health Inspector.

The collection, which is a kerbside one, is carried out weekly in most parts of the district with just three difficult or isolated small areas being served fortnightly. Most of the tipping is done at Govilon but the Council retain the use of two smaller sites at Llanvihangel Crucorney and Croes Hywel. It is anticipated that all of these tips will cease to be used early in the new year.

The Council undertake to collect from householders, free of charge, all accumulations of refuse and bulky items such as furniture and kitchen equipment. Although separate records of this activity have not been kept it can be said that there was a considerable call on this service during the year.

Work on the construction of a refuse pulverisation plant was started in September and the work is progressing on schedule. It is hoped to have the plant operating by April, 1971. This plant is a joint venture by the Abergavenny Borough Council, Crickhowell Rural District Council, and the Abergavenny Rural District Council. It will be the first of its kind in South Wales and represents a notable achievement. Its use will supercede all crude and semi-controlled refuse tipping in the area of the three authorities.

Litter Collection and Street Cleaning.

The clearing of trunk road layby litter bins is carried out by this Council as agents for the Monmouthshire County Council. The actual sweeping of the laybys remains the responsibility of the County Council but negotiations are proceeding to include this in this Council's scheme.

A pilot scheme of road sweeping was commenced in one village. This proved to be a success and recommendations are being made to have the scheme extended in the coming year to cover all the major villages.

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SEWAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Most of the populated parts of the districts are sewered, 1,855 houses being connected to a main sewer. The remaining properties in the area, being farms and isolated cottages and hamlets, are served by septic tanks, earth and chemical closets. It is estimated that there are upwards of 1,000 septic tanks in the area,including 430 receiving farm drainage. These figures are not likely to be substantially reduced in the future and represent a residual of properties which it is not possible to put on main drainage. Future action in this direction continues to be in the nature of protecting streams from pollution and improving the size, construction and means of drainage of the older types of tanks, Complaints concerning nuisances caused by septic tanks are few but there continues to be a large number of requests from owners for information and advice. This Council now operates a septic tank emptying service at a small charge.

Three men are now employed full-time on the maintenance of the sewage works under the supervision of the general foreman.

In the cases of the villages of Grosmont, Pandy, Llanddewi Rhydderch, Llanover, Llanarth, Llanellen, Bryn, Llanvair Kilgeddin, Great Oak and Mardy, the means of disposal is through traditional sewage disposal works. On small Council housing sites septic tanks and tipper filters are used. A new disposal works at Llanover came into service this year.

The village of Govilon is connected to the sewage works owned by and situated within the area of the Crickhowell Rural District Council. Llanfoist village is connected to the Abergavenny Borough sewage works.

At the Mardy, Pandy, Grosmont and Great Oak works the sewage sludge is semi-dried on special beds and then dug out and removed from the site for final disposal. At the remaining works sludge removal and disposal is by means of a liquid sludge tanker vehicle which in previous years was carried out under a private contract agreement, but which is now done by this Councils newly acquired tanker.

With the exception of the Great Oak works the treated sewage is disposed of by discharge into water courses and the quality of such effluents is controlled by the appropriate River Authority. The quality of the effluents from the Llanvair Kilgeddin, Bryn, Llanwenarth Citra and Llanellen works continued to be low and give cause for considerable concern. The Llanellen works is a newly constructed one and its working is being investigated in co-operation with this Council's engineering consultants. The problem at the very small Llanwenarth Citra works has now been mainly overcome by the installation of an additional filtration trench.

Two experiments at different works were carried out during the year. At Llanvair Kilgeddin the humus tank was converted into an upward flow clarifier. This produced an improved effluent but the improvement was not good enough to say that the problem was solved. At Bryn a simple system of recirculation using a small submersible pump was installed in co-operation with the Usk River Authority. This experiment was shown to be a great success and plans are now being prepared for a general improvement scheme to these two works using recirculation.

Work on excluding a large volume of infiltration from the Govilon village sewerage system was nearly completed during the year.

At the beginning of the year a second engineering consultants report was received on the sewerage of a large part of the district referred to as the "Northern Area" and including the villages of Mardy, Brynygwenin, Llanvapley, Llanddewi, Llangattock Lingoed and Llanvetherine. After careful consideration of this report in conjunction with report No.1, which was received in 1968, the consultants were instructed to prepare, with all speed, detailed schemes for (a) Mardy and (b) the remainder of the "Northern Area" excluding Llangattock Lingoed and Llanvetherine. It is hoped to reach the tender stage of these schemes by late 1971, early 1972.

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DETAILS OF HOUSES CONNECTED TO A MAIN SEWER

PARISH	WARD	No. of houses.	No. of houses connected to a main sewer.	REMARKS
Abergavenny Rural		71	9	
Llanddewi Skirrid		35		
Crucorney Fawr	Llanvihangel Crucorney	216	89	
	Oldcastle	9		
	Bwlch Trewyn	24		
	Lower Cwmyoy	46	8	
	Upper Cwmyoy	34		
	Fwthog	12		
Llantilio Pertholey	Fforest	47		
	Mardy, Croesonnen, Llwynu	770	770	Schemes being prepared for Mardy, Brynygwenin, Llanvapley, Llanddewi.
	(Remainder)	249		
Llanarth Fawr	Llanarth	63	24	
	Clytha	64		
	Bryngwyn	81	23	
	Llanvapley	44	8	
	Bettws Newydd	23		
Llanover Fawr	Llanover	124	80	New works at Llanover completed.
	Llanvihangel-nigh-Usk	38		
	Llangattock-nigh-Usk	116	51	
	Llansantffraed	2		
	Llanvair Kilgeddin	85	19	
	Llanddewi Rhydderch	97	21	
Llanfoist Fawr	Llanfoist	255	214	
	Llanellen	*136	87	
	Llanwenarth Citra	86	8	
	Llanwenarth Ultra	440	376	
	Pwllidu	2		
Grosmont Fawr	Grosmont	*150	64	
	Llangua	23		
	Llangattock Lingoed	36		
	Llanvetherine	37	4	
		3,418	1,855	

* Approximate figures.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES

There are no licensed slaughter houses in the Rural District. One licensed slaughterman resides within the area.

WATER SUPPLIES.

In April of this year this Council's assets, functions, and responsibilities as a water authority were taken over by the new Gwent Water Board which is now responsible for all public water supplies in Monmouthshire.

The supply and distribution systems remain basically as in previous years. The main sources of water being from springs at Grosmont, Llanvihangel Crucorney, Llanthony, Llwynu, and the Talybont and Grwyne Fawr reservoirs.

The construction of two new reservoirs and replacement distribution mains to serve the village of Govilon was completed this year.

During the year, the following samples were taken for bacteriological examination :-

Source	Untreated Water		Treated Water	
	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatis-factory
Main Piped Supplies	19	25	191	18
Private Wells & Springs	15	10	0	0

Most of the samples from the main piped supplies were taken by the Gwent Water Board who regularly supply details of all the samples taken. Most of the unsatisfactory samples of untreated mains water relate to two very small spring supplies to approximately six houses at the Deri side and Pwlldu. The possibility of a treated mains supply to both areas is under consideration.

The task of improving the private supplies to isolated houses continues mainly in conjunction with the house improvement campaign.

Parish	No. of Houses	Pop.	Ward	No. of Houses	Pop.	Water Supply by Public Water Mains			
						Direct to Houses		Stand Pipes	
						Houses	Pop.	Houses	Pop.
Abergavenny Rural	* 71	1,268		71	1,268	* 29	1,120		
Llanddewi Skirrid	35	100		35	100	13	36		
Crucorney Fawr	342	877	Llanvihangel	216	554	144	373		
			Bwlch Trewyn	24	63				
			Oldcastle	9	23				
			Lower Cwmyoy	46	117	14	35		
			Upper Cwmyoy	34	89				
			Fwthog	12	31				
Llantilio Pertholey	1,066	3,252	All wards except Fforest	1,020	3,103	1,011	3,124		
			Fforest	47	149	7	23		
Llanarth Fawr	277	835	Llanarth	67	198	53	155		
			Clytha	64	202	42	130		
			Bryngwyn	79	233	53	164		
			Llanvapley	44	132	34	101	1	2
			Bettws Newydd	23	70	18	55		
Llanover Fawr	462	1,299	Llanover	124	350	153	302		
			Llanvihangel-nigh-Usk	39	113	33	96		
			Llangattock-nigh-Usk	116	305	100	255		
			Llansantffraed	2	6	2	6		
			Llanvair Kilgeddin	85	246	71	203		
			Llanddewi Rhydderch	96	279	86	248		
Llanfoist Fawr	919	2,479	Llanfoist	255	706	232	634		
			Llanellen	136	351	107	266	1	1
			Llanwenarth Citra	86	249	69	210		
			Llanwenarth Ultra	440	1,165	399	1,041	New mains & Res. constructed.	
			Pwlldu	2	8	2	8		
Grosmont Fawr	246	705	Grosmont	150	422	88	247	New main proposed	
			Llangua	23	68	-	-		
			Llanvetherine	37	109	42	126		
			Llangattock Lingoed	36	106	30	90		
TOTALS	3,418	10,815		3,418	10,815	2,832	9,048	2	3

* Includes Pen-y-val Hospital